



Category

POLICY: 5-10 Academic Freedom

Approval

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| LT Approved: November 2, 2023 |
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| Effective Date: |
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| Revised: |
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| Responsible Party: Academic Vice Presidents |

Policy Statement

It is the mutual desire of the Board and of the instructors to create and maintain in the College a climate in which instructors are free to teach and students are free to learn at their levels of comprehension; a climate conducive to open inquiry and responsible discussion.

The instructor is entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing appropriate subject matter, but should be careful not to introduce controversial material which does not enhance instruction. Faculty members at the college are trusted professionals who are given the freedom to teach and share knowledge with students in an environment that encourages open inquiry and responsible discussion. The college recognizes the importance of this environment and aims to maintain it for instructors and students.

To support academic freedom, the college prohibits institutional censorship of its faculty members. However, faculty members should remember their words and actions represent the college and can impact its reputation. For this reason, the college expects faculty members to ensure material presented in the classroom is accurate, shows restraint, and respects the opinions of others. It is also expected that faculty members make it clear they are not speaking on behalf of the college. Instructors are also free to discuss appropriate subject matter in the classroom, but they should avoid introducing controversial material that does not enhance instruction. The college's purpose is to provide education for the common good, not to serve the interests of any individual or the institution as a whole. Faculty members are given the freedom to conduct research and publish their results, if they fulfill their other responsibilities. Any research conducted for personal monetary gain must be agreed upon by the President.

Academic professionals believe in the worth of each individual and are keenly aware of the importance of the commitment to excellence, the quest for truth, and the value of independent citizenship. Academic professionals value and practice the protection of freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of educational opportunity for all. As such, the academic professional promises to honor the teaching profession according to the highest ethical standards.